

Cohasset Marine

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Scituate-Cohasset Talks Continue On Harbor Issue

By Judith Epstein

Cohasset Selectmen met with Scituate Selectmen at Scituate Town Hall Tuesday night to discuss mutual Cohasset Harbor concerns. Approximately 62 boats lie in Scituate waters within Cohasset Harbor, and Scituate intends to collect the excise taxes due on those boats.

Legislation in effect July 1

paid costs for floodlighting, use of utilities and floats and piers for all those who used the harbor.

Harbor maintenance concerns had been voiced in March by Cohasset Selectmen when Scituate Town Administrator Richard Bennet and Harbor-master John Simons had first discussed the matter with the board. At that time, Bennett and Simons had worked out a tentative proposal which of-

and only recommendation — to comply with state law, to collect taxes on boats moored in Scituate waters and to do nothing else" for this year.

Mooring collection will remain as it has, with Cohasset collecting \$1 per linear foot per boat, except for commercial craft. Bennett added that after this season, a mutual agreement should be worked out between the towns on harbor taxes and maintenance.

Clark noted the 50 per cent of the taxes taken on boats must be returned to the harbor as maintenance funds. He wanted to know if that percentage would go to Scituate Harbor proper or to Cohasset Harbor to help defray its expenses.

"Scituate has done nothing, and now you are going to collect the money. We desperately want to be good neighbors, but it takes two to make good neighbors," Clark said.

He further pointed out that Bassing Beach and night

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Little League

Stars Then, Now

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states that taxes are paid to the town where the boat is moored. In the past boats were assessed in the town where they were stored as of January 1.

Selectmen Chairman Arthur Clark expressed "anxiety and concern for the past and future" of the harbor. The town has expended \$369,000 in the last few years on harbor maintenance, he said, and

ferred Cohasset the return of half the mooring fees on Scituate boats in Cohasset Harbor. The issue was abandoned until both towns could dispense with the business of Town Meeting.

Bennett said Tuesday that after having time to examine the law and after consulting with Town Counsel Edward Ryan, he recommended that Selectmen opt for "the best



BIG DRINK, LITTLE DRINKER — Richard McLaughlin gets a refreshing drink and cools off all at same time at fountain near high school.

[Greg Derr photo]

It's A Bird... Plane...It's

A Mud Room Lives At Cohasset High School

There is a phenomenon at the Jr./Sr. High School known as the mud room — probably because it is a mud room.

At the end of the west wing



WHAT IS IT? Why a mud room, of course! Doesn't everyone have one?

addition of the junior high school there is a door that leads to an L-shaped room literally three quarters filled with thick, clay-like dirt. When the addition was built, 15 years ago, the basement room wasn't "programmed" to be finished or used, according to architect David Anderson of Drummey, Rosane and Anderson, the firm responsible for the job.

"The building was built into a hillside," Anderson said. "We put foundations around the earth. There was no programmed need at that time for the room — so we just left it unexcavated."

Apparently the room was never intended for future use either, although the idea of using it for storage space has been bantered around by the School Committee recently. The room unexcavated could yield 1700 square feet of space. The operation isn't as easy as simply digging the room out, however.

The construction techniques used in the mud room, Anderson explained, were to supply support for the two classrooms upstairs, which were a part of the construction program. "It was the most efficient, least

expensive way to do it," Anderson said. He noted that the addition had been bid twice to keep costs down.

The footings along the foundation of the mud room have to be four feet below the finished exterior grade. The finished floor of the room may be as much as 10 feet below the footings, thus leaving the footings exposed. Right now they are resting, or bearing, on undisturbed earth, Ander-

son said. If the dirt is removed and if the foundation was not properly underpinned, the end of the building could collapse.

A \$16,000 construction project would reinforce the mud room so that it could be used for storage. "A four foot wall would have to be built all around the periphery of the room to insure that the bearing integrity wasn't disturbed under the footings," Anderson said. That would leave

1200 square feet of full cubic footage space and additional "shelf" space on the top of the reinforcement wall.

The School Committee, however, can't consider the project until possibly next year, as costs weren't budgeted this year.

So, in the meantime, rest in the knowledge that Cohasset is still in possession of its own believe it or not — the peculiar mud room.

Metco Standoff Continues

The School Committee and the State Board of Education are at a standoff concerning requirements for statistical, financial and programmatic reports on the Cohasset Metco program.

The Committee last May returned the proposal signed, but with the deletion of the phrase "that it (the Committee) will comply with the Department's request for statistical, financial, or programmatic reports."

The State Bureau of Equal Educational Opportunity responded with a letter asking for a commitment to provide program and fiscal data by July 6. The letter stated that if a revised signature sheet weren't received by that date, the review process for Cohasset's Metco program wouldn't be completed in time for the August 28 assessment by the Board of Education.

While committee members last week voted

unanimously to provide the state with annual and semi-annual statistical and financial reports, they remained firm in their opinion that the request for the reports on the program were too undefined.

A letter was drafted by the Committee and sent to the state board last week stating that they recognized the need for good management information but were hesitant to sign anything that would encumber upon them responsibility for unknowns. "Given our lean administrative staffing, we are not willing to commit ourselves to the collection and compilation to an unspecified number of reports," the letter reads.

The letter asked for a listing of all reports Cohasset would be responsible to submit, as

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